



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

REPORT ON ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, 2015



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CHAIR'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the report of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs on the annual review of the Housing Authority for the year ended 31st December 2015.

In accordance with its established Annual Report review process, the Committee examines Annual Reports of agencies, in order to investigate, inquire into, and make recommendations relating to the agencies' administration, legislative or proposed legislative programme, budget, functions, organisational structure and policy formulation. As part of this process, the Committee conducted public hearings to gather additional information.

The process has proven to be an effective means of gauging its progress and maintaining a high level of scrutiny of the agencies under review.

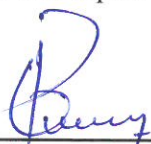
This review was made on the 2015 Annual Report of the Housing Authority and was done in accordance with Standing Order 109(2)(b) which mandates the committee to look into issues related to health, education, social services, labour, culture and media.

The review looked at nine key areas covering the period from January to December 2015, conducted into: The Housing Authority's administration; structure; budgetary allocation; programmes offered; policies; challenges; highlights; priorities for the coming years; and its implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Committee is generally satisfied with the operations of the Housing Authority and noted the progress made during the year as evidenced by the Authority recording a surplus of \$2.234m in 2015.

I thank the Management Committee and the staff of Housing Authority for their assistance in this inquiry. I also wish to thank my Committee colleagues and Committee staff for their contributions and support.

I commend this report to the Parliament.



Hon. Viam Pillay
Chairman

LIST OF ACRONYMS

SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals

RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs has conducted a review of the Annual Report of the Housing Authority for 2015 and recommends that Parliament takes note of its report.

INTRODUCTION

The 2015 Annual Report of the Housing Authority was tabled in Parliament during the November 2018 meeting and referred to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, for its scrutiny.

Standing Order 109(2)(b) allows Standing Committee on Social Affairs to examine matters related to health, education, social services, labour, culture and media.

Standing Order 110(1)(c) authorises the Standing Committee to *scrutinise the government departments with responsibility within the committee's subject area, including by investigating, inquiring into, and making recommendations relating to any aspect of such a department's administration, legislation or proposed legislative program, budget, rationalisation, restructuring, functioning, organisation, structure and policy formulation.*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The substantive members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs are:

- Hon. Viam Pillay (Chairperson)
- Hon. George Vegnathan (Deputy Chairperson)
- Hon. Alipate Nagata (Member)
- Hon. Salote Radrodoro (Member)
- Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu (Member)

During the Standing Committee's meetings, the following alternate membership arose pursuant to Standing Order 115(5):

- Hon. Simione Rasova
- Hon. Mikaele Leawere

CORE FUNCTION OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Committee noted the core function of the Authority is to provide affordable housing to middle and low income earners in line with Government's National Housing Policy 2011.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The operations of Housing Authority are aligned to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). There are plans and discussions underway with FDB and other Ministries to incorporate solar into Housing residential Lots. The committee noted that the Authority is on track in providing safe and affordable housing and basic services and through its plan to upgrade informal settlements.

With respect to sustainable transport system, the Authority is planning to build village-type communities which has residential lots which have shopping malls and small restaurants within the particular subdivision(s), thus creating a sustainable capacity for integrated and sustainable human settlement, planning and management in these subdivisions.

GENDER ANALYSIS

Gender is a critical dimension to parliamentary scrutiny. Standing Order 110 (2) requires committees to consider gender equality and ensure that the impact on both men and women is explored in all matters.

The committee noted that the Housing Authority has an Open Merit Policy in place to ensure that recruitment is based on merit and that positions are not allocated based on one's gender, age, religious status, etc.

The breakdown of staff employed at the organisation is stipulated in the following table:

STAFF ESTABLISHMENT

CATEGORY	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	%
EXECUTIVE	5	5	0	
MANAGEMENT	10	9	1	10%
TEAM LEADERS	18	10	8	44%
STAFF	115	76	39	34%
ENGINEERS	6	5	1	16%
TOTAL	154	105	49	31%

Source: Written Response from the Housing Authority

However, the committee noted that the Annual Report did not contain a breakdown of gender equality and participation in the positions held within the organisation.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That future Annual Reports present a breakdown of gender equality and participation in the positions held within the Housing Authority.

CONCLUSION

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs noted that the core function of the Authority is to provide affordable housing to middle and low income earners in line with Government's National Housing Policy 2011.

The review of the Authority's 2015 Annual Report was conducted in a very tactful and comprehensive manner. After the review, the committee forwarded questions to the Authority on certain issues for further clarification.

This has enabled the committee for Social Affairs to submit to Parliament a more reliable and a cohesive report.

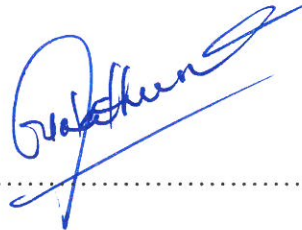
COMMITTEE MEMBERS' SIGNATURE

We, the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs agree with the contents of this report:



Hon. Viam Pillay

(Chairperson)



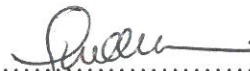
Hon. George Vegnathan

(Deputy Chairperson)



Hon. Alipate Nagata

(Member)



Hon. Salote Radrodro

(Member)



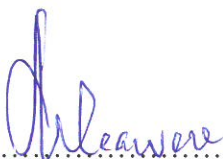
Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu

(Member)



Hon. Simione Rasova

(Alternate Member)



Hon. Mikaele Leawere

(Alternate Member)

APPENDICES

Witnesses

The following witnesses gave evidence. Transcripts can be viewed on the Parliament website at the following link: <http://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-social-affairs/>

Tuesday 29 January 2019

Housing Authority

Maciu Katamotu, Acting General Manager Lending, and **Poasa Verevakabau**, Acting General Manager Finance & Administration.

Published written evidence

Written evidence and supplementary information was received from the Housing Authority and can be viewed on the Parliament website at the following link:
<http://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-social-affairs/>